

In re Application of: Allor et al.
Application No.: 09/739,856

Remarks

In the application, claims 1 through 15 and 27 through 29 are pending. No claims currently stand allowed.

The Final Office Action dated January 14, 2004, has been carefully considered. The Office Action rejects all pending claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,144,962 ("Weinberg").

The present application and Weinberg both describe ways of presenting hierarchies of information. Because of this, their user interfaces have some superficial similarities. However, the present application is much more general than Weinberg. Weinberg is limited to presenting a hierarchy of hyperlinks in and among web sites. As such, Weinberg only contemplates one way of organizing the nodes in the hierarchy: the organization of the hyperlinks. It is true that in Weinberg the hierarchy can change over time, and that choices are sometimes made when there are several equally valid means of presenting the hyperlink hierarchy. Still, Weinberg always uses the same way to organize the nodes into a hierarchy for the user.

In the present invention, on the other hand, the nodes in the hierarchy need not be web sites or other objects of hyperlinks. The nodes are generally called "resources" and can include, in addition to web sites, tests, projects, computing devices, laboratories, and even employees of an organization. (See, e.g., the specification, Figures 3 through 6, page 8, lines 3 and 4, page 10, lines 8 through 12, and page 11, lines 11 through 20.) At different times, different ways of organizing these nodes into hierarchies may be useful. (See the specification, page 3, lines 4 through 7, and page 4, lines 5 through 9.) These different organizations can accommodate different goals based on the characteristics of the nodes and on the needs of the user. Thus, the present invention offers the user the potential of multiple organizational techniques.

Claims 1 and 10, as amended herein, clearly present this aspect of the present invention. For example, multiple organizational techniques are presented in the following elements of claims 1 and 10 and in all of new claims 27 and 28:

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- Claim 1: *presenting a first hierarchy comprising a plurality of nodes, the first hierarchy based, at least in part, on a first organization, wherein at least one of the nodes represents resources for performing tasks;*
- presenting a second hierarchy comprising a plurality of nodes, the second hierarchy based, at least in part, on a second organization, the second organization distinct from the first organization.*
- Claim 10: *presenting a first graphical hierarchy having a plurality of nodes, the first graphical hierarchy based, at least in part, on a first organization, each node representing one or more sub-projects into which the project is divided;*
- presenting a second graphical hierarchy having a plurality of nodes, the second graphical hierarchy based, at least in part, on a second organization, the second organization distinct from the first organization.*
- Claim 27: *The method of claim 1, wherein the first organization is selected from the group consisting of: by resource category, by functional area, by project, and by task grouping.*
- Claim 28: *The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the nodes represents an employee.*

(Emphasis added.) Weinberg neither anticipates nor renders obvious these claims.

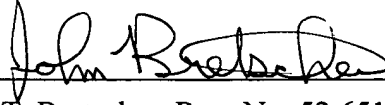
The remaining pending claims are dependent upon either claim 1 or claim 10 and are thus allowable for at least the reasons given above. Applicants request that the rejections be withdrawn and that all currently pending claims be allowed.

Conclusion

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John T. Bretscher", written over a horizontal line.

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